



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Four Pendleton County Schools Recognized for Earning ENERGY STAR

FRANKFORT, Ky. – (Jan. 17, 2013) – Pendleton County High School, Philip Sharp Middle School, Southern Elementary and Northern Elementary Schools were recognized by the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet for earning the prestigious ENERGY STAR, a national symbol for protecting the environment through superior energy performance. The district-wide energy savings ranks Pendleton County schools in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationally and garners the distinction of ENERGY STAR Leader.

Certificates signed by Gov. Steve Beshear were presented to Pendleton County Superintendent, Anthony Strong, during the Jan. 17 local board of education meeting that included representatives from the Kentucky School Boards Association, school principals, teachers, students and district leaders.

"Pendleton County Schools is pleased to be named an EPA ENERGY STAR Leader," said school superintendent Strong. "Through this achievement, we have demonstrated what can be done with proactive energy management, school leadership, and teachers who engage students in energy conservation. Our energy manager, Nathan Wright, has been instrumental in all four Pendleton County schools earning the ENERGY STAR label and the district's recognition as an ENERGY STAR Leader."

Throughout the past two years, Pendleton County has undergone renovations district-wide to improve efficiency. These include lighting upgrades, HVAC automated monitoring systems, occupancy sensors in rooms and purchasing of high efficiency equipment. Student energy teams also played an integral part in the school's energy efficiency and sustainability programs creating an energy saving culture among students and staff throughout the district.

According to Energy Manager Nathan Wright, “Pendleton County School District energy savings in 2012 totaled more than \$77,000; reducing electricity consumption by 579,686 kWh and preventing emissions of 1,224,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. This is equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions from the electricity use of 83 homes for one year, or the amount of carbon sequestered annually by 455 acres of pine forests.”

With the addition of these four schools, Kentucky is now home to 197 school facilities that have received the ENERGY STAR.

ENERGY STAR Leaders must meet one of two energy efficiency improvement milestones. The first milestone requires a 10 percent improvement in energy performance across their entire building portfolio, and subsequent recognition is given for each 10 percent improvement thereafter.

The second milestone, known as “top performer,” requires the buildings in an organization’s portfolio, on average, to perform in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationwide. To be eligible for ENERGY STAR Leaders recognition, organizations are required to track and submit energy performance data for all buildings and fuel sources through EPA’s ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager Tool.

More than 200 organizations have been recognized by EPA as ENERGY STAR Leaders, and nearly half have met or exceeded the President’s 20 percent energy efficiency improvement goal. Nationally, ENERGY STAR Leaders have cumulatively saved more than \$150 million on utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to the electricity used by nearly 95,000 homes.

The complete list of ENERGY STAR Leaders includes school districts, national retailers, commercial real estate companies, healthcare systems, supermarket operators and hotel managers that have achieved energy efficiency improvements across more than 11,400 buildings covering nearly 730 million square feet in the United States.

Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for nearly 20 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year. With help from EPA’s ENERGY STAR program, thousands of businesses and organizations are improving the energy efficiency of the places where we work, play and learn and are saving billions of dollars and preventing millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere each year.

For more information about ENERGY STAR Leaders go to www.energystar.gov/Leaders
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=leaders.bus_leaders

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